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THE USD VISTA

The Driver Era ‘brings on the thunder’

Students enjoy a variety of music at this year’s Olé Fest



Students gathered to watch Tunewave, Phony Ppl and The Driver Era on campus for this spring’s Olé Fest.

Mei Flory/The USD Vista

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Project Willow garners criticism

Oil drilling in Alaska escalates

ANJALI DALAL-WHELAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

In a controversial move on March 13, President Biden approved the Willow Oil drilling project on Alaska’s North Slope. This project by the exploration and production company ConocoPhillips is currently the largest oil project in consideration in the U.S., according to the Washington Post, making it the center of discussion on fossil fuels in recent months. The Willow Project was first approved by the Trump Administration in 2020.

According to CNN, “ConocoPhillips was initially approved to construct five drill pads, which the Biden administration ultimately

reduced to three. Three pads will allow the company to drill about 90% of the oil they are pursuing.” Although the Biden administration reduced the number of drill pads, the approval of the Willow project directly counters Biden’s campaign promise of “banning new oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters,” from Joe Biden’s campaign website.

Environmentalists are calling for a stop to Willow because of its expected impacts on the environment.

USD Professor Dr. Dan Cartamil in the Environmental & Ocean Sciences department explained some consequences of the oil project. “These [impacts] include

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The Alaskan Pipeline outside of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Photo courtesy of David Flory

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NEWS

Controversial Willow Project *Students reflect on environmental impacts*

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primarily the input of enormous amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, at a time when we should be reducing such inputs. Additionally, there are impacts to the natural ecology of the landscape, damage to the ecosystem, disruption of migratory patterns and devastating impacts to local Indigenous communities, who depend upon the landscape to provide resources for survival," Cartamil said. "Finally, the long-term impacts will be felt disproportionately by Indigenous peoples, and inhabitants of the near-polar regions in general, as these regions are warming much faster than the rest of the planet."

Proponents of Willow, including all three of Alaska's congressional representatives, say that Willow would be beneficial for Alaska's economy by creating jobs. Supporters also argue that it would lessen the U.S.' dependence on other countries for oil production.

USD first-year Jordene Garcia is from Alaska and does not support Willow, because it could impact her hometown.

"Coming from Alaska, specifically one of the islands, it makes me think most of how it'll affect my hometown. I think we rely a lot on nature, not just economically but recreationally, too. The Willow Project brings up concerns about how drilling for

oil and gas in Alaska will release even more harmful emissions as well as exploit our limited natural resources," Garcia said.

She also acknowledged the benefits of the project, but said they didn't justify the impacts.

"The resulting amount of emissions and such human intervention in nature could produce even more long-term consequences that could create a cycle of harm by negatively affecting our natural resources, which could only harm us later on as well. It really brings to question if short-term economic profit is enough to negate long-term consequences, especially when we're already dealing with climate change and struggling to come up with sufficient solutions."

Indigenous Alaskans are divided on the issue. The Indigenous advocacy group Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat strongly supports Willow, because of the benefits they believe it would provide for Indigenous communities. However, other Indigenous communities — especially those that live close to the extraction sites — have concerns over health and environmental impacts.

Another Alaskan USD student, senior David Columbus, spoke on the benefits of Willow for Indigenous communities.

"It is great the Iñupiat Native People of the North Slope will be



Projects like Willow threaten various Alaskan habitats.

Mei Flory/ The USD Vista

able to benefit from this project. They live in an area that is only accessible by air and has almost no economic opportunity for the people who live there," Columbus said. "So it is great to hear that they will be able to capitalize on this oil resource on their land and be able to improve schools and other public services."

Despite the benefits, Columbus voiced concerns about the environmental impact.

"It is also very worrying to see that there is not a stronger emphasis on switching to renewable energies when now it is absolutely the critical time to do so. Hopefully, some of this money can be reinvested into clean energy, so the beautiful Alaska I

grew up with can be preserved for future generations, and the Native culture and people can thrive."

Online activism has increased on the issue, as people have taken to social media sites such as TikTok and Instagram to bring awareness to Willow, advertising a Change.org petition against the project, which now has nearly five million signatures. Quannah Chasinghorse, an Indigenous Alaskan model has been using her social media presence to bring attention to the issue. Chasinghorse wrote in an Instagram caption, "we HAVE to LISTEN to indigenous voices as we have knowledge that holds solutions to many of today's problems. We have been failed

AGAIN AND AGAIN! Our youth and future generations will now be sending our years trying to fix and make our Mother Earth livable and sustainable again."

Alaskans are not new to climate debates. In January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stopped the Pebble Mine project in Southwest Alaska. This decision ended a 10-year-long battle Indigenous groups fought to protect wild salmon.

There is still a possibility that the Willow project will not be built. The environmentalist group Earthjustice filed a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management on March 15. This lawsuit could potentially delay the construction for up to a year.

Camino's creepy crawlies

How USD has dealt with the classroom termite infestation

LILI KIM
CONTRIBUTOR

After a week of relaxation and fun, USD students and faculty often find it hard to return from Spring Break. Yet on the first day back, students and faculty came back to an unexpected surprise: a colony of termites moved into Camino Hall.

On Monday, March 13, students and professors noticed a group of small, winged bugs congregating on one side of Camino 110, a classroom used for various Communication classes. With no prior warning about the possible infestation, professors had no choice but to carry out their lectures in the room that day. One such professor is Dr. Diane Keeling, who teaches her Podcast Storytelling Lecture course in Camino 110 on Monday nights.

"As students started arriving, the ones sitting by the window said there were a bunch of bugs on the floor," Keeling recounted. "There were a lot of them wandering around together on the floor and some of them flying about. We continued on with class, but every once in a while, a student would swat away a flying termite."

Dr. Aziz Muqaddam, a fellow Camino 110 professor, had a

similar experience upon his return to campus. He recalls seeing the termites firsthand and telling students to move to the front of the class to avoid them.

"The students were anxious about it to say the least... Thank God I had a small class."

Professors weren't the only ones bothered by the unwelcome pests. Gaby Sanchez, a student in Dr. Keeling's Podcast class and member of USDTV, shared her discomfort with finding termites near her desk.

"I'm scratching myself just thinking about it!" Sanchez exclaimed. "You never know where they could be, and they said that it was confined in that room, but that's not really how termites work... they move."

Both Dr. Keeling and Dr. Muqaddam immediately reported their findings to alert Matt Springer, the executive assistant of the Communication department. By Wednesday March 15, Camino 110 was shut down, and professors were relocated to various classrooms across campus, including in the Learning Commons and Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice.

While USD immediately found new spaces to hold classes temporarily, there was a mixed response among professors

and students. The majority opinion was positive, and all the professors were grateful for USD's swift response. Dr. Keeling, as well as Communication professor Tom Herman expressed their appreciation for the beautiful classrooms. Professor Herman used words like "splendid" and "superb" to describe his new classroom in the Learning Commons.

Dr. Keeling also shared her positive experience with the classroom move.

"The change in scenery has actually sparked new energy into the class. It's nice to have a change of pace mid-semester," Keeling said. "I would stay in the new classroom for the rest of the semester if needed."

The one drawback brought up by professors was the shift between different types of classrooms. For example, Dr. Muqaddam's class, a Digital Analytics lecture, requires a lab for students to use desktop computers.

"It's a completely different room. That one is a computer lab, while the other room is a seminar room." Dr. Muqaddam said. "It just so happened that every student had a laptop, but I would've preferred to stay in a lab where students could use computers."

On Wednesday, March 22,

professors received the green light from Matt Springer that fumigation of Camino 110 had been completed. According to an email forwarded by Springer, the exterminators reported to USD facilities that they utilized a termiticide/insecticide called "Termidor SC," which is in the phenyl pyrazole chemical family and may cause acute toxicity if inhaled or ingested. Professors could finally relocate to Camino 110 on March 27, and put the infestation issue behind them...or so they thought.

As soon as the classes returned, more sightings of termites emerged in Camino 110. This brought up frustration for both professors and students, as the classroom had to be evacuated for a second time.

"I feel like the school should be trying to fix this more efficiently so that we wouldn't have to worry about moving back and forth," Gaby Sanchez described. "It's more so annoying to have to move from classroom to classroom."

According to Springer, the exterminator was contacted again and explained that it can take up to a week for the fumigation chemicals to work. Thus, classes will return to Camino 110 for a second time following Easter break, while several professors

have decided to remain in the Learning Commons for the remainder of the semester. "I suggested proceeding with caution when deciding between staying out of the room and returning, as we can't be 100% sure the termites won't come back...what if they're living in the walls?" Springer said.

While the door to the termite infestation is technically closed, it opens other doors to questions about maintenance and care of College of Arts and Sciences buildings in general. Sanchez believes there could be more work to be done.

"I wish that the school would put in more effort to buildings like Camino. I think because there are so many people in the College of Arts and Sciences, they should put more attention into that space," she said. "If [the termites] are an issue, what other issues could there be?"

With the new construction of the Knauss Center of Business Education and the upcoming building of the USD Wellness Center, it is evident USD is dedicated to upscaling the campus for an improved student experience. The Camino termites serve as a reminder of the need for continuous care and maintenance for the oldest buildings on campus as well.

San Diego's homelessness crisis

Toreros weigh in on state and local measures

JACKIE MARQUEZ
OPINION EDITOR

In the heart of downtown San Diego, masses of tattered, makeshift shelters line the sidewalk. Cobbled together from tarps, tents and blankets, these flimsy encampments provide shelter for San Diego's most vulnerable population: the homeless.

Just outside of our university, many individuals are trying to survive on the streets, and the number of unhoused people is rising every day. NBC 7 reported that, as of December 2022, there are 1,839 unhoused people in Downtown San Diego alone. This number grew by 133 people from November to December. With increasing rates of homelessness, more San Diegans than ever are reaching out for help. The Regional Task Force for Homelessness in San Diego reported that in February 2023 alone, 1,036 San Diegans reached out for homelessness assistance for the first time. This assistance took the form of shelter, food or other services.

The homelessness crisis in San Diego is intensifying, and Toreros are noticing. Students living both on and off campus report seeing homeless people as they go about their daily lives.

Hannah Johnson, a USD junior from San Diego, is one of these students. Johnson resides off campus near Hazard Center, a shopping center in Mission Valley. Because of her home's proximity to the Hazard Center trolley station, she sees unhoused individuals daily.

"They're always at the trolley station, and to get in and out of our complex we have to go past them," Hannah Johnson said. "I can even see them on the platform from my bedroom. It's just so sad to see people who don't have homes, while I'm sitting in my own home watching."

Johnson's experience seeing homeless people daily isn't unique to students who live off campus. Robert Johnson, a USD junior living on campus, also sees homeless people in his day to day life.

"Anytime I go down to 7/11, there's always at least one homeless person hanging out in that area," Robert Johnson explained. "Pretty much every time I drive off campus I see a couple people on the street."

With the homelessness being so close to campus, some Toreros are concerned for their safety. USD first-year Danica Rauch explains that when she comes across unhoused people, she does her best to keep her distance.

"I don't usually interact with homeless individuals, oftentimes I'll walk on the opposite side of the street from a group of homeless people," Rauch explains. She also realizes, however, that it's a difficult habit to acknowledge. "I don't want to feed into the stigma of fearing the homeless population."

Other students on campus are aware of the stigma around homeless individuals. Like Rauch, Taybor Rich, a USD junior, recognizes that there is a stereotype associated with homeless people.

"In the homeless population, not everyone's circumstances are related to some sort of addiction," Rich acknowledged. "There's a lot of factors that can lead to homelessness, and I don't think the issue should be swept under the rug as their 'fault.' I do think that it should be addressed and taken care of by the public."

As of late, California officials have been devoting more attention to issues the homeless community faces. On Sunday, March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom of California held a conference in San Diego to announce his proposals targeting the issue of homelessness. According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, one of these proposals included a bond that would raise money via tax dollars to create more beds for people with mental health issues. Another proposal would devote \$97 million of the state budget to deal with drug abuse.

These proposed measures garnered mixed responses from USD students. Some Toreros are open to paying for services with their tax dollars, while others are concerned about tax rates rising.

"Depending on the amount of money, the majority of people would be willing to devote some of their tax money," Hannah Johnson said. "Especially the people from San Diego, considering how big the issue is in San Diego compared to other big cities."

Robert Johnson is more apprehensive when it comes to tax-funded solutions.

"I don't want to be paying more in taxes, especially when income taxes are already super high in California," Robert Johnson said.

Like the state government, the City of San Diego has also



Pancakes Serving Up Hope helping the homeless community in San Diego.

Photo courtesy of @pancakes_sub/Instagram

been targeting the issue of homelessness through proposed legislation, though they've taken a stricter approach. The Union-Tribune reports that on Thursday, March 16, San Diego City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn announced a proposal to target homelessness in San Diego. This proposal would introduce an ordinance that bans encampments on public property. The ordinance would result in some encampments being cleared, even if individuals living in them have no other alternatives. Mayor Todd Gloria supported Whitburn's proposal.

"They [the homeless] cannot say 'no' to leaving the sidewalk or 'no' that they prefer being on the street or 'no' to services and help," Mayor Gloria said.

The city's crackdown on homelessness is controversial among USD students.

"That approach seems like a good way to aggravate the situation between police and the homeless," Robert Johnson commented. However, Johnson also acknowledged that homelessness is a difficult issue to tackle. "There's no perfect solution to the situation, but I also feel like there's a way to approach them with kindness."

The kindness that Robert Johnson hopes for can be found on campus within some of our

clubs that serve the homeless community. Pancakes: Serving Up Hope is one of these clubs. Every other Saturday, Pancakes serves breakfast to members of San Diego's homeless community. Their goal is to bring awareness to homelessness issues and humanize unhoused individuals, while also providing a meal to those in need.

Ashley Biolsi, a USD first-year who participated in Pancakes' outreach events, explained the work that the club does.

"We make a mass amount of pancakes and hand them out to homeless people along with other little things and basic necessities," Biolsi said. "We also talk with them. It's important because homeless people can feel really isolated and cut off from society itself."

She also acknowledges why it's so important that Pancakes: Serving Up Hope raises awareness for homelessness.

"It depends on the person and their background, but most people don't give a lot of thought to the issue," Biolsi remarks. "A lot of people here at USD are very wealthy and high status, so I think they can't relate to someone that actually struggles with making a living and putting a roof over their head. I feel like because of that they just don't think about it."

Biolsi isn't alone in thinking this, as both Robert Johnson

and Hannah Johnson noted the distance between USD students and the issues of homelessness.

"I think it's one of those issues that people are passively concerned about. Almost nobody is actively doing anything," Robert Johnson said. "They'll talk about it, but then they'll be like 'Well, what am I supposed to do?' There's no super strong personal responsibility."

Hannah Johnson also recognized this distance in her own life.

"There's that contrast between knowing how privileged I am to have a home and a family that supports me, whereas homeless people are dealing with issues like addiction, mental health issues, and they don't have that support system," Hannah Johnson said.

Just four miles away from Downtown's poverty lined streets, USD and its students are distanced from the realities of homelessness. While some students work to understand that gap, others are complacent.

There are also mixed opinions about current approaches to the issue; some students support assistance for the homeless, but others are apprehensive about it. Although students have different viewpoints on the subject, it is an issue that Toreros are noticing and discussing ways to implement change on and off campus.

The USD Vista

Editorial – 619.260.4584
Business – 619.260.4714
www.uofsdmedia.com / @TheUSDVista

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All inquiries should be sent to:
The USD Vista
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

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ARTS & CULTURE

Ross and Rocky Lynch perform at USD Students bask in the performance's 'afterglow'

MEI FLORY
MANAGING EDITOR

It's highly unusual to see Torero Way packed with hundreds of students at 9 p.m. on a Friday night. But the annual Olé Fest, hosted by the Torero Program Board (TPB), created a wave of excitement among USD students, as the headliner stepped on stage: The Driver Era. Comprised of brothers Ross and Rocky Lynch, the musical duo arrived in San Diego and performed on USD campus just outside of the Hahn University Center (UC) on March 31.

Ross Lynch, who is best known for starring as one of the title characters in the Disney show "Austin & Ally," was formerly in a band with his siblings, who were known as R5 from 2009-2018. In 2018, he and his brother formed The Driver Era, after R5 disbanded, according to an article from VMan. Their first single, "Preacher Man," was the last song of the night during Olé Fest.

The excitement leading up to The Driver Era's performance began with their sound check at 4

p.m. USD students gathered after their class to watch, with several staying behind to camp out in front of the stage so they could save their spots for that night.

USD junior Teriza Camaisa attended the sound check. She loved watching The Driver Era up close and got there early to get a spot up front.

"I've never been [barricaded] for any concert before so it was definitely a new experience for me. I also remember listening to R5's music all the time in middle school. It's cool to see how their music has changed," Camaisa said.

To start off the show, the USD student band known as Tunewave walked onto the stage. USD seniors Nick Brumbach (from USD Radio) and Diego Hernandez, along with USD alum Henry Kiley, performed songs from their albums "Self-Reflections" and "Molecules in Motion." Toward the end of their set, Hernandez made sure to show his gratitude for his friends and fellow Toreros who share his major.

"Shout out to the biochem department," Hernandez announced. His acknowledgement was met with praise and cheers

from everyone who came to support all of Tunewave.

Following Tunewave's electrifying performance came the New York-based music group Phony Ppl. With five members in total, the band played another high-energy set, featuring their hit "Fkn Around" and songs from their album "Euphonyus." Many students appreciated the band's kindness, as lead singer Elbie Thrie even offered to take photos with fans after their set ended.

USD first-year MylaGrace Zapanta expressed how impressed she was with Phony Ppl's upbeat energy.

"My favorite part was probably Phony Ppl, they knew how to hype up the crowd. They were very interactive and confident while up on the stage," Zapanta explained.

Then came the moment everyone had waited for. The Driver Era walked onto the stage and greeted USD students, followed by loud cheers from all along Torero Way. The applause didn't stop, even when Ross Lynch confused the USD Toreros for the SDSU Aztecs. "Congrats on the final four!" the

singer shouted to the crowd. Lynch was referencing SDSU's men's basketball team advancing to the finals during March Madness. The USD student body quickly corrected him and soon had the duo shouting "USD" following the humorous exchange. TPB even provided Ross Lynch with a blue and white cowboy hat with "Toreros" written along the rim to confirm his affiliation with USD. Another exchange occurred when The Driver Era brought up two students to play pong (without the beer). Two USD students not only got the opportunity to not only take a picture with the duo, but also to run through a round of pong, while the audience cheered them on.

The peak energy of the performance occurred when Ross Lynch took his shirt off. For anyone with TikTok, one could easily find dozens of videos of Ross performing without a top. The crowd, especially those at the front, shouted "Take it off" for the first half of the set. The Driver Era took notice and responded.

"Y'all seen the TikToks, huh?" Rocky Lynch called out fans. "I'm making you wait for

it," Ross Lynch added.

Near the end of the set, Lynch gave in, with an increase in screams from the audience. The Driver Era finished their performance on a strong note, playing hit songs such as "Low," "Afterglow" and "Preacher Man." Earlier in the night, fans sang along to other popular songs, including "A Kiss," "flashdrive" and "Natural."

USD junior Jason Reed has been a fan of Ross Lynch ever since "Austin & Ally." He also attended the 4 p.m. sound check and thought the entire set was incredible.

"Ross Lynch proved to us why he stole all of our hearts when he was on 'Austin & Ally' and 'Teen Beach Movie' with his incredible voice and performing skills. Rocky was also an absolute vibe rocking on guitar the whole set," Reed said.

By the end of the night, one of the security guards reported that nearly 1,000 students attended the event, which is significantly more than the 500 TPB and security were expecting. Fans of The Driver Era undoubtedly loved seeing the duo perform at USD, as did most students who attended this year's Olé Fest.

'Daisy Jones and the Six' The new miniseries adaptation draws praise

STELLA SCHNEIDER
ASST. A&C EDITOR

Originally published in 2019 by well-known author Taylor Jenkins Reid, "Daisy Jones and the Six" quickly rose to popularity, receiving the Goodreads Choice Awards' Best Historical Fiction the same year. Reid sold her manuscript for "Daisy Jones and the Six" a year before the book was published, and Hello Sunshine (Reese Witherspoon's production company) was set to adapt the book into a television miniseries. Lauren Neustadter, who runs the organization's film and TV division, got early access to the book through Reid's agent. Neustadter saw the potential for the book, which has now been in the New York Times bestseller list for more than 100 weeks. "Daisy Jones and the Six" was inspired by the vibe and style of Fleetwood Mac, a popular rock band from the 1970s; it follows the Dunne Brothers, a small band in Pittsburgh, that come together with Daisy Jones, a young singer-songwriter, and pave their path to success in the music scene from the 70s.

Riley Keough, Elvis Presely's granddaughter, stars in the series as Daisy Jones. Alongside her is Sam Claflin, who plays Billy Dunne, the other lead of the series. Other cast members include Suki Waterhouse, Camila Morrone,

Will Harrison, Josh Whitehouse, Sebastian Chacon and Timothy Olyphant. The cast's chemistry on and off screen aided the filming of the series and the creative vision of the writers of the series and Reid.

In order to prepare for the show the actors in the band learned how to play their respective instruments. COVID-19 disrupted their initial plan to begin filming in August 2020, but it allowed the actors 18 months to master their instruments and vocals for the show. In an effort to bring the band together and help their performance, Executive Producer Neustadter had the idea to have the fictional band, Daisy Jones and the Six, perform in front of a large group of crew and executives at a studio in Los Angeles.

With Zoom recordings, band camps and long practices, the group and the music came together during that time.

The comradery of the cast is quite noticeable and many people working on crew, or meeting them on their press tour could agree.

Katie Huff worked as a production assistant on the set of "Daisy Jones and the Six" for episode six. In this role, she was interacting with the cast during the days she was on set.

"They all seemed to be very close friends. It was a fun environment," Huff explained. "At one point between takes the whole tent blew over but Will [Harrison] and Sebastian [Chacon] ran out,



'Daisy Jones and the Six' cast members after one of their performances.

Photo courtesy of @Daisyjonesandthesix/Instagram

and we all worked together to hold down the tent. Any actor could've been pissed about that, but they were all really kind and trying to solve the problem."

The cast's connection seemed to add to the chemistry and passion on set.

"It seemed like a very loving set. There's a moment where Daisy and Billy are yelling at each other in the desert, and it was super windy and freezing and they're wearing next to nothing, but they had to get multiple takes. It was incredible to watch how they would scream like you see in the show and the second they would cut, Sam Claflin would pull Riley Keough into a hug because it was so freezing," Huff said. "They kept going in and out of this embrace into yelling, and it showed how close they were, and also how fantastic they were at acting."

The cast isn't the only thing

fans of the show appreciate; the soundtrack also stood out to a lot of viewers. USD junior Sophie Brands had a great experience watching the series and listening to the soundtrack.

"The soundtrack is unreal — it was my favorite part of the show and I've been listening to their songs on repeat," Brands explained. "I actually listened to 'Look at Us Now (Honeycomb)' before seeing the show, and it's one of the reasons I really wanted to watch it."

Since the release of the show, the Spotify page for the fictional band "Daisy Jones and the Six" has amassed over 3 million monthly listeners and is still climbing. The positive reaction of their music from fans reflects the popularity of the band and the television series as a whole.

Author Taylor Jenkins Reid came to USD last fall after the

publication of her most recent book, "Carrie Soto is Back," where she talked about her writing process and her passion for writing historical fiction. "Daisy Jones and the Six" isn't her only book to be adapted to the screen. "One True Loves" was published in 2016, and the story was adapted into a film released on April 7, 2023. "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" also gained a lot of attention on the popular social media app, Tiktok, and will be adapted as a feature film for Netflix. Reid will be executive producing "Malibu Rising" for its television series adaptation coming to Hulu. Her most recent publication, "Carrie Soto is Back," was picked up by Picture Start to be adapted onto the screen.

All 10 episodes of "Daisy Jones and the Six" are available on Amazon Prime Video with a subscription.

Say goodbye to Sir Baudelaire

A peek into Tyler, the Creator's 'Call Me If You Get Lost: The Estate Sale'

SPENCER BISPHAM
CONTRIBUTOR

Tyler Gregory Okonma, known professionally as Tyler, the Creator, has signaled the start of a new era in his career. His newest project, "Call Me If You Get Lost: The Estate Sale" is an eight-track deluxe edition of his sixth studio album "Call Me If You Get Lost" (CMIYGL), released in 2021. Originally, "CMIYGL" explored the artist's concept of luxury in every sense. From his fondness for glitzy accouterments to extended vacations around the globe, the first version of the album was an account of finding fulfillment through uninhibited self-exploration. Now, the additional tracks' lyrics and accompanying visuals on "The Estate Sale" serve as Tyler's final farewell to the most recent version of himself.

The news of this release came relatively unexpected prior to its debut on March 31. Four days earlier, the "Earfquake" rapper took to Twitter to share about the album and its cover artwork.

"Call Me If You Get Lost" was the first album I made with a lot of songs that didn't make the final cut," he tweeted. "Some of those songs I really love, and knew they would never see the light of day, so I've decided to put a few of them out."

Also on March 27, Tyler released one of the songs from "The Estate Sale" as a single with a music video, titled "DOGTOOTH." The track is a nearly-three-minute victory lap celebrating his successes, blessings and how consensual sex is great sex.

In contrast to the often-misogynistic undertones of hip-hop music, the way Tyler talks about sex on "DOGTOOTH" takes an affirmative stance on female pleasure. During the hook of the song, he sings about a woman that he sleeps with and encourages her to be in a position of dominance. He focuses on her pleasure instead of his own. This contrasts how he's described sexual experiences in the past.

Long before Tyler's current popularity, some of his lyrics were considered controversial at best and "violent" at worst. His debut studio album, "Goblin," was released in 2011 and caused quite a stir for its references to murder, rape and domestic abuse.

On a song titled "Tron Cat," Tyler has a verse describing a non-consensual encounter with a woman who is pregnant. He refers to her as his "victim," threatens her with sexual violence and then proceeds to brag about it to his friends.

The perception that this music had the potential to incite violence followed Tyler long after its release. In 2015, he received so much criticism that he was reportedly banned from entering the U.K. More recently, critics have called for Tyler to acknowledge and



Cover art for 'Call Me If You Get Lost: The Estate Sale.'

Photo courtesy of @Tylerthecreator/Twitter

apologize for the way he has referred to women in his music.

Misogyny notwithstanding, there are several common threads that run through Tyler's discography. He is known for building worlds around the central themes of each album, complete with characters and destinations from his imagination. In "CMIYGL" he becomes "Tyler Baudelaire," whose name references the French poet, Charles Baudelaire. This 'character' is distinguishable by his ushanka hat, cardigans, jewelry and other unique fashion statements Tyler made during the rollout of the original album and its subsequent tour, similar to the monochromatic suits and blonde wig he wore in connection to his fifth studio album "IGOR."

With these visual cues, Tyler Baudelaire represents the essence of "CMIYGL" and his current creative vision — a vision consistent with the songs on the deluxe version as well.

On "WHARF TALK," A\$AP Rocky joins Tyler for a jaunty, springtime lovers' anthem. The two talk of spoiling their partners with the finer things in order to prolong the beauty of budding romance. In the video, Tyler is shown riding a bicycle, eating charcuterie in a field, and with A\$AP Rocky down at a wharf. The bright clothes and scenery in the first two shots match the colorful essence of the Tyler Baudelaire character, in contrast to a more serious color palette when the two rappers are shown together.

Some of these sequences

are inspired by Tyler's past works, including one scene that is a direct reference to his music video for "See You Again", released back in 2018. This kind of reminiscing is a theme that appears later on the album as well.

Finally, "SORRY NOT SORRY" was the only other song released ahead of "The Estate Sale" and is essentially an apology letter to all of the people Tyler feels he has wronged throughout his career. He begins almost every verse in the first half of the song with the words, "I'm sorry..." going into depth about hiding his former partners, struggles with personal relationships and how to handle success.

The video for the song shows Tyler dressed as Tyler Baudelaire,

Igor and the other personas from his previous albums all together on a stage. One at a time, the artist, dressed in only black Dickies pants and white Vans, murders each of these characters in front of the audience, ending with a gruesome shot of him assaulting Tyler Baudelaire.

The finality of this scene speaks to the end of his past eras and that of his present, leaving the audience and his listeners anticipating his next move. Since 2009, Tyler has released a full album or mixtape every two years without fail. Although "Call Me If You Get Lost: The Estate Sale" was technically its own project, there are rumors circulating on Reddit that another album titled "Welcome to The Disco" is on the way.



Tyler performing 'IGOR' in his white wig.

Photo courtesy of @Feliciathegoat/Instagram

WITH EARTH DAY COMING UP ON APRIL 22, USD PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS

Professor Zhi-Yong Yin teaches in the Environmental and Ocean Sciences department at USD and shared why USD students should care about Earth Day.

“I think it is a part of the mission of the USD right now — we are creating this environment,” Yin said. “Everybody should really be aware of the current situation and the issues that the human society is facing, and then we should all work together to solve some of those issues and the environmental issues.”



Photo courtesy of Unsplash



Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/sustainability

Dr. Cantzler believes that USD students can make a change. “Young people are active in advocacy worldwide. Because their parents are in a crisis and because they are disengaged from previous generations, they see themselves as agents of change,” Dr. Cantzler said. “Whatever the future will inevitably have to contend with, students are critically engaging with the reality of climate change and positioned for leadership.”

USD REFLECTS ON THE HISTORY OF EARTH DAY 53 YEARS OF CELEBRATING



Photo courtesy of @USDclimateaction/Instagram

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, THE GREAT GLOBAL WARMING. TO PICK UP TRASH WAS ESTABLISHED TO FOCUS ON REDUCING WASTE AND WARMING. TO JOIN THE GREAT GLOBAL WARMING. TO JOIN THE GREAT GLOBAL WARMING. [HTTPS://WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org)

Kerolos Khalil, a junior at USD, spoke about the importance of Earth Day and the issues it addresses. “We kind of have to care about this because we’re the ones that are going to be affected by the Earth, we’re the ones that are going to be affected by the Earth, we’re the ones that are going to be affected by the Earth.”

Dr. Julia Cantzler, USD Professor and Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, is the advisor for USD’s Sustainability Club and spoke on why Earth Day is so valued.

“Earth Day matters because it brings people together in recognition that the climate crisis is real, that it is causing significant harm, and that urgent action is necessary to address it,” Dr. Cantzler said. “Because we are facing an imminent tipping point of climate catastrophe, the awareness and action that Earth Day generates is more important than ever.”



Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/sustainability

STUDENTS GIVE THEIR TAKE ON WHY EARTH DAY MATTERS EVERY DAY.



USD junior Sarah Siegel gave her input on why her fellow students should care about Earth Day.

“USD students should care about Earth Day because we are all in the generation that is going to have to live with the consequences of how the Earth is currently being treated,” Siegel said. “We all have the power and the resources to make a change and do something good for the Earth, so we should utilize it and do something about it.”

students’ generation is the one that will be already leading the charge of climate change as their futures are at stake from the climate change they are disenchanted by the inaction of older generations who are as rightfully best suited to demand climate action as whatever their major, or career path, students are facing with climate change. Those who are already leading the charge of this urgent challenge will be best equipped for the future.”



Photo courtesy of @USDclimateaction/Instagram

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARTH DAY AND COUNTING

TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE THIS EARTH DAY, A DAY DEDICATED TO TAKING CLIMATE ACTION AGAINST GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, GO TO THEIR WEBSITE AT [WWW.USD.EDU/CAMPAIGN/CLEANUP/](https://www.usd.edu/campaign/cleanup/).

“I think it is so vital for students to care about the issues that are brought up on this day. It is so important because if we don't care about the environment, we are going to get screwed over,” Khalil said.



Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/sustainability



Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/sustainability

USD first-year Kate Lising gave her take on why Earth Day is still important today.

“It’s a day completely dedicated to recognizing and appreciating the world that we have been gifted with,” Lising said. “We are able to give back to our home and thank it for providing us a beautiful place to live.”

FEATURE

Dr. Mae Jemison visits USD

First African American woman to travel to space

LAUREN CEBALLOS
FEATURE EDITOR

USD Professor Dr. Dominguez interviewed Dr. Jemison, the first African American woman to travel to space, in the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on March 29 in honor of Women's History Month.

The event was a product of the collaboration of the USD Black Student Union (BSU), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Women's Commons and the Torero Program Board (TPB). USD chose Dr. Jemison as a representative for Women's history due to her work as a doctor, engineer, astronaut, her work with the Peace Corps and more.

"She is an inspiration to us all, and we could not be more excited to have her on campus," according to the Torero Program Board.

Dr. Jemison was in the first class of the astronaut program after the Challenger accident but had no apprehension. Applications had closed and once they opened, Jemison renewed hers. Dr. Jemison was not afraid to go to space but was afraid of heights, but she was willing to overcome that fear to accomplish her goals and inform her curiosity.

"I'm a fraidy cat, but I'm nosy," said Dr. Jemison. "What do we do with fear, we have to put it in context."

Dr. Jemison articulated how she made some of her life choices by taking the next step, leaving where she was, and/or starting something new.

"We talk about empowerment like somebody gives us the power, but we have to take it; we have to own it."

Dr. Jemison shared her experience of going to space, including how her worldview changed and clarified her perspective.

"For me, the change was a connection with the rest of the universe, it affirmed things that I always believed... when people say 'save the earth' they're wrong, the earth will be here but we might not be here... An affirmation, the beauty of the earth, and the moon and the stars."

Her perspective was broadened and confirmed. Dr. Jemison came to visualize just how small one person is in comparison to the universe.

Amongst the multitude of Dr. Jemison's accolades was also her acceptance to Stanford as a 16-year-old.

Dr. Jemison expressed a memento from the experience.

"One can get affirmation from lots of different places, but very importantly you have to affirm yourself."

Dr. Jemison described the approach that she took as a young teenager in college.

"You usually don't slip in the room, people usually know you're there, so... you might as well take advantage of it."

Dr. Jemison explained how she wanted to join the Peace Corps in order to find a purpose. She worked at refugee camps and then decided to go overseas with the Peace Corps, serving in Sierra Leone and Liberia, solely because she wanted to, not thinking that it was a part of a specific plan.

The Ivy League, Cornell, did not understand Dr. Jemison's reason for choosing to go to the Peace Corps.

The Dean called Jemison down to his office.

"[This is] not the way a Cornell medical student is supposed to be doing things."

Dr. Jemison ignored the concern and followed what she knew to be her next step.

Jemison knew that going overseas was "purposeful," but she was not "plotting" for anything, just doing what she knew she wanted to do with her life. Later on, she applied to be an astronaut, and it was her overseas experience that helped set her application apart, working in a very "low resource environment, on call all the time."

Jemison shared a lesson from this experience. She had chosen to follow her heart, not a plan, just what she knew she wanted to do for herself at the time. Later on, this work helped set her apart from other astronaut applicants.

"All the things you learn can interplay, and you [can] draw from [it]."

Dr. Dominguez questioned Dr. Jemison's earliest memories of her love for science. Dr. Jemison explained a story of getting a splinter when she was little, seeing the pus in her thumb, and being fascinated with it and the way that her body was taking care of itself. Dr. Jemison developed a never-ending curiosity with the natural world.

"[I was] always fascinated by the stars and everything around me," Dr. Jemison shared.

Dr. Jemison has both a love of science and a love of dance. When she graduated from college, she had to make the decision of becoming a dancer or going to medical school and came to a realization.

"You can always dance if you're a doctor but can't [be a] doctor if you're a dancer."

Dr. Jemison shared the correlation of her interest in both fields.

"People don't think of the sciences and all of those as creative, but they are. And for me they're all about creativity."

Dr. Jemison explained how her parents, her mom (a teacher) and her dad (a construction worker), were some of the best scientists she has ever known



Dr. Mae Jemison lives a life of influence, trailblazing day after day.

Photo courtesy of @usd_tpb/Instagram

and how important it is to pick the right influence in life, setting you up for success or turmoil.

Dr. Jemison answered Dr. Dominguez's question about the influential people in her life.

"People underestimate how important it is when you choose your parents [to be your influences.] Dr. Jemison admired her parents' emphasis on the importance of "how people approach the world."

"[They] help set the tone to whether you try things, or whether you're discourag[ed] from things."

When reflecting on her childhood, Dr. Jemison also shared how, growing up, girls are always taught to keep their dress clean and not mess up their hair, "But you gotta fall sometimes and be resilient and get back up."

USD sophomore Naomi Kidane shared her anticipation regarding seeing Dr. Jemison.

"I've heard about her since I was young, because my dad would always tell me that she was the first [African American] woman to go to space, so I really made sure that I attended this event because it's just cool to see her live and in person," Kidane explained.

Kidane revealed her expectations for the event.

"I'm just excited to hear about her experience... seeing how she interacts with other people, seeing how she presents herself, because I feel like that would also be like a way for me to mimic and use her as a role model and maybe, hopefully get to talk to her after."

USD sophomore Cesar Liza shared his biggest takeaway. "Just do what you want to

do. Even though she was an astronaut, went to medical school, nothing ever stopped her from doing whatever interested her in that moment," Liza said.

USD sophomore Ashlyn Kopf relayed her reaction to Dr. Jemison's visit.

"She was very well spoken and I loved how she was very confident in what she was saying and it truly seemed like she cared even though she didn't know about us."

Dr. Jemison, shared her story and some insight to her success. Students were impressed by her multitude of achievements and happy to hear her wisdom.

USD closed Women's History Month with Dr. Jemison who gave attendees motivating words to live by with a built resume to support her advice.

OPINION

Binge-watching

Impacts health and the streaming business

ZOE MARIE ZAPANTA
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

As streaming continues to rise in popularity, many people bring themselves comfort by sitting back and binging their favorite TV shows and movies. Streaming provides unlimited access to thousands of TV shows or movies, allowing us to watch anything our heart desires, commercial-free, at any time, day or night.

But this newfound freedom over how we get our entertainment has some harmful side effects. Watching television may not directly harm someone's health, but it is connected: it causes behavioral patterns that produce health problems over time. If those patterns continue, it could cost streaming services subscriptions, which is why binge-watching is bad not only for your health but also for the streaming business.

Many people only binge-watch occasionally. However, doing this regularly could affect a person's health by inducing sedentary behavior, sleep problems and an unbalanced diet. According to a study in *Medical News Today*, sedentary behavior is defined as, "sitting or laying down with minimal movement." The study says that consuming excessive amounts of television could cause high levels of sedentary behavior. It also features a 2020 review that examined 18 other reviews of studies of the relationship between sedentary behavior and health over 10 years.

Researchers found links between sedentary behavior and several health problems, including depression, physical disability and reduced cognitive function.

Sometimes, I will stay up late to finish a show or movie. Recently, I've been watching "Scandal." The show ended in 2018 and — with a total of seven seasons — I have a lot of episodes to catch up on. But in the midst of binging the show, I haven't been prioritizing my sleep as much. A study previously published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* found that people who postpone their sleep to binge-watch reported more fatigue, more symptoms of insomnia, poorer sleep quality and greater alertness prior to going to sleep. Based on my own experience, I'd have to agree with those findings.

With more time sitting, mixed with a lack of sleep, an unbalanced diet caused by binge-watching is inevitable. Binge-watching can affect peoples' diets through behaviors that they display during long periods of sitting, such as snacking or eating low-nutrition meals.

Lilian Cheung, director of health promotion and communication at Harvard School of Public Health says, "there's convincing evidence in adults that the more television they watch, the more likely they are to gain weight or become overweight or obese." She adds that the sedentary nature of prolonged viewing contributes to binge-watching being harmful.

"TV viewing may also promote poor dietary behavior



Binge-watching results in sedentary behavior.

Photo courtesy of @a_d_s_w/Unsplash

due to frequent exposure to unhealthy food and beverage marketing, as well as providing more opportunities for unhealthy snacking, and interfering with adequate sleep," she said.

Despite these drawbacks of binge-watching, there are some benefits to it. For example, binge-watching promotes socializing, which is integral and healthy for humans.

"A lot of people use binge-watching as a social connection," said Eileen Anderson, a medical anthropologist at Case Western Reserve University whose research focuses on the well-being of young adults in

changing cultural environments. She adds that, "it's a way to have a shared experience," especially since binge-watching connects people that aren't always together physically.

The desire to binge stories is also part of what makes us human. We love stories. According to the *Atlantic*, "Humans are inclined to see narratives where there are none, because it can afford meaning to our lives, a form of existential problem-solving." Key elements of streaming today are superb production and masterful storytelling (for example, *Peaky Blinders*, *Game of Thrones*, *Succession*), so it is not a surprise that people are drawn to the activity. While human connection is integral to our lives, there are other ways to connect with people. That is why it is important to prioritize your health and avoid binge-watching.

Regardless, this particular format of storytelling can prove harmful to the very streaming services that promote it. According to Pedro Ferreira, a professor at Heinz College and Carnegie Mellon University, binge-watching is a central part of the subscription video on-demand business model. "Subscription platforms promote binge-watching, because it keeps the customer in front of the screen," Ferreira explained. "When one episode ends, the next one automatically starts. Also, the way these stories are written makes them better

consumed in this manner. The storytellers take into account that you're not going to watch one episode per week, you're going to watch several back-to-back."

I don't know what I am going to do when I finish 'Scandal' and many people like me that do participate in binge-watching are likely asking themselves the same question: what's next? Ferreira's study found that, for certain shows, if people can finish them in the free trial period, they are less likely to renew for a full subscription. If people are not renewing their subscriptions after they binge-watch, then the streaming services won't be profitable.

Binge-watching isn't going anywhere. But these problems are not necessarily unresolvable. You can start by making a plan of how many episodes or how many hours you're going to watch, have some healthy snacks around, and prioritize your sleep.

As for the streaming business, Ferreira suggests capitalizing on a recommendation system. Having suggestions of related content when finishing a show or movie might just create a steady pace of engagement between the consumer and the platform, and these firms would no longer have to race to put out new content. So before you pass the popcorn and start your next binge, keeping these things in mind just might save you from falling down the rabbit hole of binge-watching.



Our time spent in front of screens is exponentially increasing, thanks to the growing trend of binge-watching.

Photo courtesy of @nabiloh/Unsplash

The views expressed in the editorial and op-ed sections are not necessarily those of *The USD Vista* staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.

OPINION

Oat milk makes a splash

No more dairy default

JAYLYNN CHOI
CONTRIBUTOR

MIKHALA KASEWETER
CONTRIBUTOR

In recent years, oat milk has taken the world by storm, and for a good reason: oat milk is the most sustainable, inclusive and ethical choice compared to dairy products and plant-based alternatives. Coffee chains such as Blue Bottle Coffee and Pachamama Coffee have announced that they will welcome oat milk as the default in their milk-based beverages.

Of plant-based drinks, the oat milk industry has seen the most growth by far, with mainstream coffee businesses like Starbucks offering oat milk-exclusive specialty drinks. This industry trend has since spread to college campuses; University College London has adopted an oat milk default in four of their campus cafes. And now, USD is at the forefront of the movement to adopt oat milk as the default for colleges and universities in the United States.

The “Oat Milk Initiative” project that won the 2021 Changemaker Challenge was proposed by third-year students Julia Kanamine Surrick and Catalina Martinez. In the spring of 2022, a team of students — part of the Changemaker Hub’s Design Lab: Climate Alliance Edition — took on the project and further developed the idea. Over the past year, they worked with Dining Services and nonprofits Farm Forward and Better Food Foundation to design and test the viability of the oat milk default project. The team behind the initiative and the pilot include students Jessica Lefford, Sophia Arena, Cassandra Gonzalez, Julia Humphrey, Colton Landaiche, Katherine Power, Maria Guadalupe Mendez Arroyo, and myself.

Prior to April, milk alternatives such as almond, soy and oat cost an extra 75 cents at all of USD’s dining services, which is often a barrier for students who are vegan, lactose intolerant, allergic to soy/almond, practicing members of certain religions, or just prefer plant-based alternatives in their beverages.

During the month of April and in celebration of Earth Day, the Oat Milk Default pilot will run only at Aromas Cafe, switching the default milk from dairy milk to oat milk at no

additional cost. (Note: students will be able to opt into dairy milk and other plant-based alternatives such as almond and soy still cost 75 cents). This is a major achievement for USD, as it will be the first university in the United States to implement oat milk as the default in their cafe and aligns with USD’s commitment to sustainability.

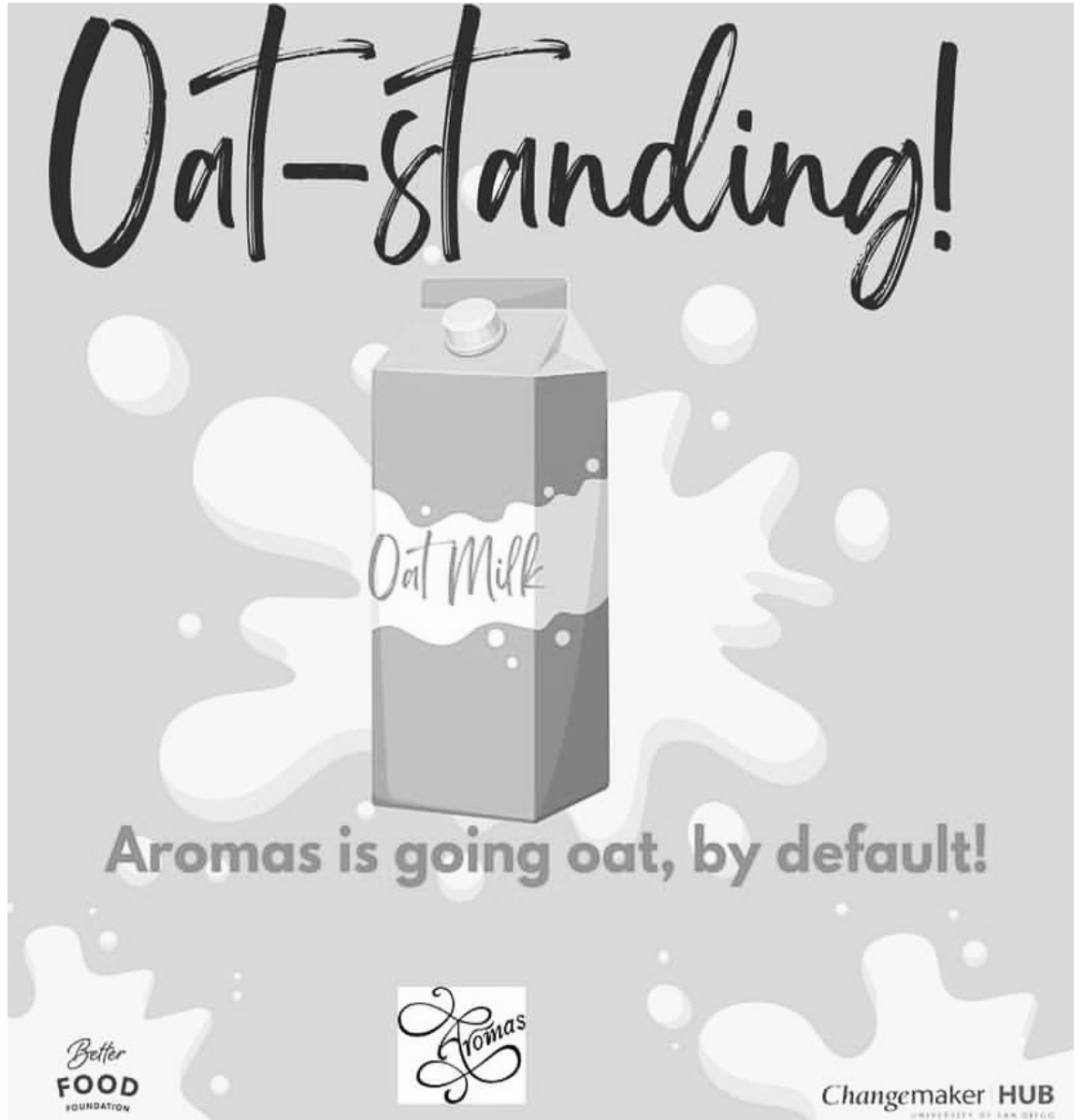
Just like countless other cafes, dairy has always been the default at Aromas. Dairy has historically been the norm in American society. In an interview with Vox, author Alissa Hamilton explained how milk has been marketed as more necessary than it actually is.

“Milk is the only food that makes up an entire food group,” she wrote. “If you look at it logically, it doesn’t deserve that special status any more than pumpkin seeds deserve that just because they’re high in magnesium — which is an essential nutrient Americans are low in.”

Most people accept the health benefits of milk as common knowledge, and for good reason; coffee menus have been structured to make dairy the norm and make plant-based alternatives cost slightly extra. It’s what we’re used to, but that doesn’t mean it’s the way of the future. Flipping the default doesn’t eliminate options; it just changes the norm, so the sustainable option is served automatically and affordably.

Having oat milk by default is not just accommodating vegans or those with food sensitivities, but it is a part of a bigger movement that allows USD to meet its own carbon-reduction goals. According to a study by the University of Oxford, dairy milk by far has significantly higher environmental impacts than any other plant-based alternative. Almond milk famously requires a lot of irrigation, but all plant-based milks have much smaller land and carbon footprints than dairy. In comparison to dairy milk, the production of oat milk emits three times less carbon emissions, requires nine times less land and three times less water. This is essentially important as Southern California is currently in a years-long drought.

To put things further into perspective, it’s estimated by the Better Food Foundation that one non-dairy latte saves 0.143 kg CO₂. That means if one person bought a plant-based coffee every weekday for a month, they



Aromas switching to a non-dairy default has many benefits.

Photo courtesy of @usdchangemakerhub/Instagram

would save almost 3 kilograms of carbon dioxide. Rather than settling for the option of oat milk, making it the standard allows students to participate in sustainable food choices at higher rates and no extra cost.

Oat milk as a default is not only the best option for the environment, but it is also more beneficial for marginalized communities. The dairy industry runs on the labor of the working class, such as Black and Latinx communities, who are disproportionately affected by climate change. Immigrant workers make up nearly 75% of the dairy farm workforce and depend on the industry for their livelihoods. However, it is also important to acknowledge that immigrants, most of whom are undocumented, are subject to wage theft and harsh working conditions according to an article by Documented. On the other hand, no statistics reveal the exploitation of workers in the oat milk industry, and most oats are imported from Saskatchewan, Canada.

Non-dairy milk benefits

marginalized communities on the consumption side as well. According to an article by Intermountain Healthcare, lactose intolerance is most common among minorities, with 75%-90% of African American, Mexican American and Asian Americans unable to digest lactose while northern Europeans have a lower rate at 18-26%. As USD’s student body is becoming more diverse, institutional changes in the form of inclusive food policies such as the oat milk default are important to creating an inclusive campus.

Lastly, oat milk is more heart-healthy than dairy milk. During the pilot, Aromas will be using Silk Original Oat Milk as the default which is free from dairy, gluten, nuts, and soy, and contains 50% more calcium than dairy milk. (Just like how dairy milk is fortified by manufacturers with Vitamin D, plant milks are often fortified during production to have just as much or even more calcium as dairy).

Also, oat milk has lower saturated fat and more fiber than

dairy milk, and like all other plant-based milks, has zero cholesterol. While other plant-based milks such as pea or soy milk have higher protein content, oatmilk remains a favorite of the coffee industry, because its rich creaminess is best at mimicking the fattiness of dairy milk.

As the oat milk default pilot will occur only during the month of April, the voices of students will determine whether or not this should be a permanent change.

Whenever they need a morning cup of coffee, students and faculty can provide feedback by visiting <https://bit.ly/oat-feedback> or scanning the QR code at the Aromas register.

This oatmilk initiative is an important hallmark worth celebrating. Using oatmilk by default advances the university’s mission by making our community more inclusive, and aligns with USD’s official vision by “confronting humanity’s urgent challenges”: climate change, racial justice, public health, human rights and animal welfare.

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SPORTS

The double standard in sports

Women's basketball championship eclipsed by media criticism

AMARA BROOKS
SPORTS EDITOR

Louisiana State University (LSU) defeated Iowa to become the 2023 NCAA women's basketball champions. The win marked the program's first ever national title just two years after head coach Kim Mulkey joined the program. The LSU team truly accomplished the impossible with 15 new transfer students appearing on the program's roster at the beginning of the season. In just a short span of time, they proved the media wrong and showed they had chemistry on and off the field to achieve record-breaking stats. The team's impressive season and championship win was unfortunately outshined by an outpour of media criticism surrounding power forward Angel Reese's celebration toward Iowa's Caitlin Clark.

Like many women basketball players this season, Clark has been all over the media for her impressive offensive skills. Her shooting ability has fans comparing her to power shooter Stephen Curry, as she is consistent in her completion of far field three point shots. Radio talk show host Dan Patrick claims she's the best shooter the game has ever seen.

"If you want to watch the best shooter in college basketball, men or women, it's Caitlin," Patrick said. "There's nobody like her."

Clark's stats back up the claims. She is tied for the fastest to collect over 2,000 career points - in just 75 games - in NCAA Division I women's basketball. She's also the first player in division history to record 900 points and 300 assists in one season. She made history again by becoming the first player in NCAA women's March Madness history to score a triple-double. Alongside her amazing achievements, Clark is known for her savage trash talk and celebrations against her opponents. Clark became a trending topic as viewers tuned in not just to see her captivating game play but her tenacity against opponents.

One moment that grabbed media attention occurred during the Iowa game against South Carolina in the Final Four round of the tournament. Clark and her team were on defense and when Clark was supposed to guard Carolina point guard Raven Johnson, she didn't. Not only did she decide not to guard one of the best in the NCAA tournament, she accompanied it by hand waving Johnson off, as if she couldn't be concerned enough to defend her.

The hand wave to Johnson



Reese (left) and Clark (right) at the forefront of media criticism following the Women's March Madness championship game.

Photo courtesy of @TheNBACentral/Twitter

isn't the only time Clark has physically shown her feelings toward opponents during the tournament. Just before the game against South Carolina, Clark adopted John Cena's infamous "you can't see me" hand wave in the Elite Eight round against Louisville. After dropping her sixth three-pointer of the night, Clark celebrated with the iconic gesture. Twitter responses came flooding in with John Cena himself tweeting, "even if they could see you... they can't guard you."

That particular game against Louisville involved more than just elaborate celebrations as Clark and Louisville's Haley Van Lith began to trash talk each other on the court as well. Clark told guard Van Lith, "You're down 15 points. Shut up."

The trash talk and celebrations in this year's Women's March Madness had many people tuned in, with viewers claiming the games were more fun to watch than WNBA and the Men's March Madness tournament as well. According to an ESPN report, the championship game against LSU and Iowa garnered 9.9 million views, making it the most streamed sporting event to date on ESPN+. The game itself kept many tuned in until the end, with a final score of 102-85, the game also marked the highest-scoring championship game to date. In contrast, the men's championship game was the lowest viewed March Madness final on record. However, despite all of the excitement surrounding the game, all of it was overshadowed by the heavy outpour of criticism toward Angel Reese.

Reese, alongside Clark, has been in the media for her incredible game play and exciting game day celebrations. Most notably, Reese first trended on Twitter and TikTok

when she made an impressive one-handed block while holding one of her sneakers in the other hand. Reese made history in the game by making her 34th double-double, which is the most made in a single season in NCAA women's history. Reese ended the game with 15 points and 10 rebounds, and won the tournament's Most Outstanding Player Award.

Right before the game was finished, Reese adopted the same John Cena "you can't see me" hand wave and directed it toward Clark, followed by pointing to her ring finger. The latter is a commonly used gesture by sports legends, including Tom Brady and LeBron James to indicate the placement of a championship ring.

Reese's "you can't see me" gesture toward Clark sparked public debate over Twitter, with many criticizing Reese. Sports journalist Jose de Jesus Ortiz called her actions "classless," while former ESPN host Keith Olbermann called her an "idiot." Public figures like Barstool Founder and CEO Dave Portnoy tweeted that she was a "classless piece of sh-t."

The public debate continued with many coming to Reese's defense, pointing out that there was no public outrage when Clark did the gesture earlier in the tournament. The only difference between the two situations is one of the players is white and the other is black.

USD sophomore Sarah Evans from the women's soccer team touched on the pressures Black athletes experience when expressing themselves in games.

"It's out of passion," Evans stated. "No matter how the media portrays it, I think that you kind of have to watch a little bit more about what you do, and say, because of how it can be perceived."

Shortly after the victory,

Reese addressed the criticism and ongoing debate about the incident in a press conference.

"All year, I was critiqued for who I was; I don't fit the narrative," Reese said. "I don't fit the box that y'all want me to be in. I'm too hood. I'm too ghetto. Y'all told me that all year. But when other people do it, and y'all don't say nothing. So this is for the girls that look like me."

The double standard is clear. It wasn't only okay when Caitlin Clark did it, it was celebrated. Clark's actions were met with support and excitement as viewers claimed this year's tournament showed that women's basketball has the same amount of grit and trash talk as men's. As Reese mentioned in the press conference, players who look like her receive harsher treatment because they don't fit the narrative the media wants to box them in. In women's sports female athletes are expected to contain their emotions, both on and off the court.

Tennis champion Serena Williams has frequently caused media controversy for her anger during matches and has been labeled "emotional" by the media.

In an ESPN interview, Clark responded to the debate and came to Reese's defense regarding the issue.

"I don't think Angel should be criticized at all," Clark stated. "Everybody knew there was going to be a little trash talk in the entire tournament. It's not just me and Angel. We're all competitive. Men have always had trash talk ... You should be able to play with that emotion ... That's how every girl should continue to play."

Clark addressed another double standard at play, not just in regards to how race was at the forefront of the public's outrage, but how women are expected to act a certain way during games.

Clark's statements

regarding the game came a day after First Lady Jill Biden added more fuel to the fire by stating that she believed that both teams should be able to come to the White House.

"I know we'll have the champions come to the White House, we always do. So, we hope LSU will come," she said. "But, you know, I'm going to tell Joe I think Iowa should come, too, because they played such a good game."

Reese responded on Twitter calling the remark, "a JOKE" with people questioning if LSU would have been invited if the roles had been reversed. Many brought attention to the fact the comment comes along with the fact that LSU is a team of majority Black players and Iowa is a team of majority White players. It is tradition for the champions of the tournament to be invited to the White House and meet the President and The First Lady in celebration of their accomplishments, not the runner ups.

The First Lady put out another statement backtracking on her previous remarks, claiming it was an effort to applaud the work the teams have done for women's sports.

It is unfortunate that an event like the March Madness tournament, which has brought so much light and viewership to women's sports, has been outshined by public criticism over a simple hand gesture.

The 2023 tournament will be one that many will call a turning point in women's sports history. The record number of viewers portrays this idea that women athletes are only now putting on a good show, but the truth is they always have. This new generation of players are now pushing against this narrative about how female, and especially Black female athletes are expected to behave on the court.

Is San Diego becoming a sports city again?

Loyal San Diego fans prove the city still has much to offer

AMARA BROOKS
SPORTS EDITOR

Ever since The Chargers left San Diego in 2017, leaving only one professional sports team, the city's received a reputation for no longer being a "sports city." As The Chargers moved back 120 miles north to Los Angeles, The Padres remained as the city's lone professional sports team. Now, with the introduction of The Gulls hockey team, The SD Loyals and San Diego Wave FC soccer teams, professional sports of all kinds are making their way to the city and reclaiming its status as a sports city again.

For many living in San Diego, Jan. 12, 2017 was a hard day, especially for San Diego Chargers fans, as Dean Spanos announced he would be relocating the team to LA. The Chargers originally resided in San Diego for over 50 years, and many heartbroken fans shared their opinions on the move by clearing out and burning all of their affiliated merchandise in front of the Qualcomm Stadium.

USD senior Ashley Sutton grew up in San Diego, and she and her family would attend many Chargers games when they were still based in the city.

"My family saw it coming, but we were still bummed," Sutton explained. "It was always an exciting thing to do a couple times a season, and it was usually a fun night whether or not we won. We miss hearing 'San Diego, Super Chargers.' It has a much better ring than 'Los Angeles Chargers.'"

Just a year after the news, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that San Diego won the title for the 'Worst Sports City in America.' As the eighth largest city in the country with a population of 1.4 million, people may wonder why the city is so bad when it comes to pro sports.

The truth lies in the fact that as the nation's fourth best city for an active lifestyle, pro sports have a lot of competition. According to WalletHub, when cities are ranked on active lifestyles, they are rated on their relative number of sporting goods stores, basketball hoops, swimming pools, parks, public golf courses, fitness centers and hiking and bike trails. Many of these activities are relatively free, or at the very least cost less money than a sporting event. The wonderful weather that makes San Diego so special also makes it difficult for professional sports teams to attract fans.



The Locals are an independent supporter group of The Loyals; their goal is "to provide a culture of inclusion and a world class supporter's atmosphere."

Amara Brooks/The USD Vista

When it comes to whether San Diego is a sports city, Sutton claimed it comes down to how one defines a sports city.

"San Diego has lots of pro teams that just are not in major national leagues," Sutton stated. "We have baseball, lacrosse, hockey, rugby, indoor and outdoor soccer. So as far as the quantity of sports teams, I do not think we are lacking. Yet, usually this label is talking about the people. San Diego fans are 'Big Game' fans. As we noticed last season with the Padres and San Diego State University, the whole city floods a major championship series."

However, professional soccer teams made their way and found success in San Diego.

The San Diego Loyals have called the Torero Stadium home for the past three years. Founded in 2019 by Warren Smith and Landon Donovan, the team relied on the ideal of placing the San Diego community at the forefront. The owners picked the name of the club to reflect the people of San Diego: loyal. On the club's website they emphasize the importance of the club's crest. The crest states that the club anchors itself as a San Diego team "for now, for always." The team's most important priority is making sure to connect with the community at large. Through their program 18/86 The Loyals connect with San Diego's 18 cities and 86 neighborhoods, with weekly activities and community events throughout the year.

The Loyals often practice at community fields in the city and have a mission to protect and serve the LGBTQ+ and Latinx minority communities in San Diego. Through a partnership with San Diego Pride, the Loyals have Pride Night to celebrate the team's "Loud and Proud" initiative. 20% of all tickets sold at the game will be donated to SD Pride. Alongside Pride Night the club and its players host weekly community events at local public schools and highlight small businesses in an effort to give back to the community.

It's no surprise that every game held at Torero Stadium is filled with Loyals fans. As of their current contract with Torero Stadium, many wonder if The Loyals will extend their stay on the USD campus. Currently, The Torero stadium can hold up to 8,000 attendees, and with the building of the new SnapDragon Stadium at SDSU, The Loyals could potentially find a new home that would expand themselves to a 35,000-person capacity arena.

San Diego Wave FC made headlines in 2022, when it was announced that a National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) was coming to San Diego. The team is San Diego's first women's professional soccer team since 2002 when the San Diego Spirit team was forced to disband. Similarly to The Loyals, Wave played their first season at The Torero stadium before promptly moving to SnapDragon Stadium before their season finished. Their opening game at

the new location drew a sellout crowd of 32,000 attendees, setting a new NWSL single-game attendance record.

The soccer team started their inaugural season with one of the most high-profile deals in NWSL history when they signed world-renowned forward Alex Morgan. Morgan is most notably known for winning two Women's FIFA World Cups with the Women's National Team, a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics and a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games. In their first season they advanced to the playoffs semi-finals round before falling to the Portland Thorns FC. Morgan spoke to The Associated Press and stated that she sees San Diego as home for many years to come.

"I think something I'm very excited about is that I've made a long-term commitment to this club," Morgan explained. "I see myself being in San Diego through my playing career. I see myself settling down in San Diego."

While professional soccer teams are changing the narrative of professional sports teams in San Diego with consistent sell-out games, The San Diego Gulls prove that San Dieagans also love the ice.

Sutton explained that Gulls games are fun to attend not just for the game play, but the media entertainment throughout.

"Gulls games are a lot of fun. The media team does a great job of providing entertaining and hilarious graphics on the

video board while playing great music throughout the night. Hockey is one of those sports that moves fast and is very exciting to watch live because of the contact, consistent game-play, fighting, and crazy fans."

The San Diego Gulls are a professional ice hockey team in the American Hockey League (AHL) that started its first season in 2015. The Gulls are an affiliate team to the National Hockey League's (NHL) Anaheim Ducks. The Gulls play at Pechanga Arena San Diego and average just under 9,000 attendees at every home match. The Gulls have College Nights to encourage college students to enjoy a game and take a break from studying. With a student ID college students can get home game tickets for \$15. The team prove each season that they're a strong contender in the division finals as they stand in the top four best teams each season.

While San Diego is always in conversations for not having a NBA or NFL team, the city still has so many professional sports teams that offer amazing game day experiences. Many San Diego fans flooded the city's sports bars to watch San Diego State University compete in the final round of March Madness.

"At the end of the day we are very loyal to our city and our teams," Sutton shared.

From the drums of The Loyals support groups, to the fans cheering on fights on ice San Diego sports isn't just defined by the Padres.

COMING UP
THIS WEEK

USD MGOLF at El
Macero Classic
Friday, Apr. 14
Davis, CA

USD WTRAK at Beach
Invitational
Friday, Apr. 14
Long Beach, CA

USD WTEN at SMU
Friday, Apr. 14
11 a.m.
Dallas, TX

USD MTEN at
Pepperdine
Friday, Apr. 14
2 p.m.
Malibu, CA